



SEPTEMBER 5 - 11, 2003

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VOL. II, NO. 36

House passes Veterans Health Care Improvement Act

Bill to improve health situation of Filipino vets—Filner

SAN DIEGO—US House Rep. Bob Filner, D-CA, has urged the Senate to immediately pass H.R. 2357, the Veterans Health Care Improvement Act, a bill that would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide health care to Filipino World War II veterans who legally reside in the United States.

Filner, who has been working to restore these benefits for many years, said that by passing this legislation for Filipino World War II veterans, "we are providing a giant step forward in our quest to correct the injustice that was inflicted upon them by the 1946 Congress."

Filipino soldiers, who were drafted into service by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, fought side-by-side with soldiers from the United States. Their participation, including that in Bataan and Corregidor, was critical to the successful outcome of the war in the Far East.

Health care, said Filner, is an urgent need for veterans, most of whom are in their early 70s and 80s. If passed, the bill would restore dignity and honor to these proud veterans, he added.

The bill, passed by voice vote by the House of Representatives last month now moves to the U.S. Senate.